

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Be it known that I, **JAMES CONERTON**, residing at **355  
Wynland Trace, Atlanta, GA 30350**, a citizen of the United  
10 States, have invented certain new and useful improvements  
in an

15 **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AN ELECTRONIC VISUAL  
DISPLAY**

20 of which the following is a specification.

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# APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SUPPORTING AN ELECTRONIC VISUAL DISPLAY

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## TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to furniture,  
and more specifically to an apparatus for supporting  
television monitors, plasma screens, computer monitors,  
10 motorized projection screens and/or other electronic visual  
displays, wherein the apparatus comprises apertures and  
channels for managing and concealing electrical cables and  
wires.

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## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With recent innovations and advancements in  
technology, electronic visual displays, such as televisions  
20 and computer monitors, are becoming increasingly thinner  
and more affordable. Because such ultra-thin visual  
displays have become more prevalent, the need for furniture

specifically adapted to support such displays has grown accordingly. Unfortunately, conventional entertainment units are generally unsuitable to support such thin screen media, as the sheer depth and size of such entertainment  
5 units are typically more suited for accommodating conventional tube televisions and the like.

Additionally, because flat screen monitors usually possess a height much greater than their base, such  
10 monitors are typically unstable and, as such, are susceptible to tipping over. Although, pedestals specifically designed to support flat screen monitors are available, as are support brackets for wall-mounting flat screen televisions, such support devices have not been  
15 incorporated into existing furniture pieces to facilitate accommodation of flat screen displays therewithin.

Furthermore, current support mechanisms do not provide a sufficient means for managing and/or concealing the  
20 numerous electrical cables and wires needed to power and support the audiovisual display. Unfortunately, the integration of audiovisual accessories significantly exacerbates the problem. For example, to wall mount a flat

screen, holes must typically be drilled into the wall to conceal power, cable, DVD, VCR, stereo, camera and/or video game console wires and cables. Moreover, several such holes may be necessary to receive wiring and cabling from additional electronic devices.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need for an apparatus for supporting an electronic visual display, and for managing and concealing the numerous cables and wires associated therewith. Furthermore, there is a need for such an apparatus that enables easy installation and integration of electronic accessories and their associated wire connections.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing an apparatus for supporting electronic visual displays, wherein the apparatus comprises a

plurality of apertures and channels for managing and concealing electrical cables and wires.

According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention in its preferred form is an apparatus for supporting television monitors, plasma screens, computer monitors, motorized projection screens and/or other electronic visual displays, wherein an A/V connector plate is provided to integrate auxiliary electronic devices, and wherein apertures and channels are provided to manage and conceal the cables and wires needed to support the electronic visual display.

More specifically, the apparatus possesses a first aperture to permit cables and wires to traverse therethrough, wherein a plurality of smaller apertures are formed around the first aperture for receiving mounting screws therein, and wherein the electronic visual display is mounted over the first aperture. A horizontally elongated recess is situated on a lower rear portion of the apparatus, wherein a power outlet and audiovisual source, namely a television antenna, satellite dish or cable outlet, are located proximal to the recess when the

apparatus is secured to a wall surface. The apparatus also possesses an A/V connector plate for connecting auxiliary electronic devices to the electronic visual display, power source, and/or audiovisual source.

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A first channel is disposed on the apparatus to connect the recess to the first aperture, thereby permitting wires and cables to connect the electronic visual display to the power source and/or audiovisual source disposed on the wall surface. A second channel is disposed on the apparatus to connect the recess to the A/V connector plate, thereby permitting wires and cables to connect selected auxiliary electronic devices to the electronic visual display, power source, and/or audiovisual source disposed on the wall surface.

Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to mount and display an electronic visual display, yet effectively manage and conceal the cables and wires needed to power and support the electronic visual display.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ease of assembly.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to permit the integration of auxiliary electronic devices, such as VCRs, DVD players, stereos, cameras, and/or video game consoles, yet effectively manage and conceal associated cables and wires.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

**FIG. 1** is a front perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention;

5       **FIG. 2** is a side view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

**FIG. 3** is a rear perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention, wherein the rear panel  
10 is disengaged from the apparatus.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED**  
**AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS**

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In describing the preferred and selected alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in **FIGS. 1-3**, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be  
20 limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all



technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

Referring now to **FIGS. 1-3**, the present invention in a preferred embodiment is an apparatus **10** for displaying a television monitor **M** on a wall surface **W**; however, it is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that apparatus **10** could be utilized to display other electronic devices and equipment, such as, for exemplary purposes only, plasma screens, computer monitors, motorized projection screens, and/or audio speakers. It is also contemplated that apparatus could be utilized to display a television monitor **M** on adjacent wall surfaces, on a ceiling surface or on adjacent ceiling and wall surfaces. Apparatus **10** generally preferably comprises front panel **20**, middle portion **50** and rear panel **150**. More specifically, front panel **20** preferably comprises front side **21**, rear side **23**, top edge **22**, bottom edge **24**, left edge **26** and right edge **28**, wherein front panel **20** is preferably in the form of a rectangular wooden board with a veneer or laminate finish. It is recognized that front panel **20** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only,

particle board, tin, aluminum, plastic, or other strong, rigid, yet relatively lightweight materials.

Preferably formed on upper portion 25 of front panel 20 is aperture 30, wherein aperture 30 is preferably centrally positioned between left edge 26 and right edge 28. Preferably, aperture 30 is rectangular-shaped and comprises corners 32, 34, 36 and 38, wherein circular-shaped apertures 40, 42, 44 and 46 are disposed proximal to corners 32, 34, 36 and 38, respectively, for receiving mounting screws therein, as more fully described below. It is recognized that apertures 30, 40, 42, 44 and 46 could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and could be situated anywhere on front panel 20, so long as a mounting bracket may be mounted over aperture 30 for purposes more fully described below.

Preferably, middle portion 50 of apparatus 10 is in the form of a rectangular board comprising front side 52, rear side 54, top edge 56, bottom edge 58, left edge 60 and right edge 62. Preferably, the width of top and bottom edges 56 and 58, respectively, of middle portion 50 are approximately equal to the width of top and bottom edges 22

and **24**, respectively, of front panel **20**; the length of left and right edges **60** and **62**, respectively, of middle portion **50** are approximately five inches shorter than the length of left and right edges **26** and **28**, respectively, of front panel **20**; and the thickness of middle portion **50** is approximately three times the thickness of front panel **20**. Middle portion **50** is preferably formed from recycled cardboard; however, it is contemplated that middle portion **50** could alternatively be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only wood, particle board, cork, expanded polystyrene, or other relatively strong, lightweight materials.

Referring now to **FIG. 3**, preferably formed on upper middle region **51** of middle portion **50** are apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68**, wherein apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68** are substantially identical to apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46**, formed on front panel **20**, and wherein apertures **61**, **63**, **64**, **66** and **68** are substantially aligned with apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46** when top edge **22** of front panel **20** is aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below.

Preferably disposed on lower portion **53** of rear side **54** of middle portion **50** is substantially rectangular-shaped recess **70**. Preferably, recess **70** is centrally positioned between left edge **60** and right edge **62** of middle portion **50**, and situated approximately 5 inches from bottom edge **58**. It is recognized that recess **70** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and that any number of recesses **70** could be situated in any suitable configuration on apparatus **10**, so long as recess **70** accommodates for electrical outlets and plugs to pass through and permit apparatus **10** to stand flush against wall surface **W**, as more fully described below. Preferably, recess **70** is horizontally elongated to increase the lateral area in which apparatus **10** may be positioned on wall surface **W** to accommodate for outlets and plugs.

Preferably, channel **80** is disposed on rear side **54** of middle portion **50**, wherein channel **80** is centrally positioned between left edge **60** and right edge **62** of middle portion **50**, and wherein channel **80** extends from aperture **61** to recess **70**. It is recognized that channel **80** could be alternatively situated at any suitable position on apparatus **10**, so long as cables, wires and/or other similar

electrical conductors can extend from aperture **61**, through channel **80**, and into recess **70**, as more fully described below.

5            Preferably, horizontal channel **90** is disposed on lower portion **53** of rear side **54** of middle portion **50**, wherein channel **90** extends from left edge **60** to right edge **62**. It is recognized in an alternate embodiment that channel **90** could be situated at any suitable position on apparatus **10**,  
10   so long as cables and wires can extend from channel **90** to aperture **61**, as more fully described below.

            Preferably disposed on rear side **54** of middle portion **50** are vertical slits **100** and **102**. Preferably, slits **100**  
15   and **102** are disposed through channel **90**, wherein slit **100** is disposed proximate to left edge **60** of middle portion **50**, and wherein slit **102** is disposed proximate to right edge **62** of middle portion **50**. Slits **100** and **102** are preferably configured to receive and retain blank plate **110** and A/V  
20   connector plate **120** via frictional fit, wherein slit **100** preferably possesses blank plate **110**, and wherein slit **102** preferably possesses A/V connector plate **120**. It is recognized that slit **100** could possess blank plate **110** or

A/V connector plate **120**, and slit **102** could possess blank plate **110** or A/V connector plate **120**. Moreover, it is recognized that although blank plate **110** and A/V connector plate **120** are preferably removably secured to middle  
5 portion **50**, blank plate **110** and A/V connector plate **120** could be permanently affixed to middle portion **50**.

Preferably, blank plate **110** is provided to cover and seal channel **90**, wherein blank plate **110** is in the form of  
10 a rectangular-shaped piece of wood. It is recognized, however, that blank plate **110** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only particle board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, or  
15 plastic.

A/V connector plate **120** is preferably a thin rectangular plate possessing a plurality of A/V connection ports, as is known within the art, for connecting auxiliary  
20 electronic devices to television monitor **M**, as more fully described below. It is recognized that A/V connector plate **120** could also possess supplemental power outlets and/or a cable outlet to connect auxiliary electronic devices to a

power source and/or an audiovisual source, as more fully described below. It is further contemplated that apparatus 10 could possess any number and configuration of A/V connection ports, cable outlets and/or supplemental power outlets. Although apparatus 10 preferably comprises A/V connector plate 120 disposed on a lower outer portion of apparatus 10, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus 10 could possess any number of A/V connector plates 120 situated in any suitable configuration on apparatus 10.

Preferably, channel 130 is disposed on rear side 54 of middle portion 50, wherein channel 130 is centrally positioned between left edge 60 and right edge 62 of middle portion 50, and wherein channel 130 extends from channel 90 to recess 70. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that channel 130 could be situated at any suitable position on apparatus 10, so long as cables and wires can extend from channel 90 to recess 70, as more fully described below. Furthermore, although apparatus 10 preferably comprises channels 80, 90, and 130, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus 10 could comprise any number of channels, situated in any

suitable configuration within apparatus 10, so long as wires and/or cables are able to traverse channels connecting recess 70 to aperture 61 and/or A/V connector plate 120, and so long as wires and/or cables are able to traverse channels connecting aperture 61 to A/V connector plate 120.

Preferably, rear side 54 of middle portion 50 further possesses threaded screw holes 140, 142, 144 and 146 for attaching middle portion 50 to rear panel 150, as more fully described below. Preferably, screw hole 140 is disposed on upper left portion 71 of rear side 54, screw hole 142 is disposed on upper right portion 73 of rear side 54, screw hole 144 is disposed on bottom left portion 75 of rear side 54, and screw hole 146 is disposed on lower right portion 77 of rear side 54. It is recognized that middle portion 50 could comprise any number of screw holes, situated in any suitable configuration on rear side 54, so long as rear panel 150 can be removably secured to middle portion 50, as more fully described below.

Preferably, rear panel 150 is in the form of a rectangular board comprising front side 152, rear side 154,



top edge **156**, bottom edge **158**, left edge **160** and right edge **162**. Preferably, rear panel **150** is preferably substantially identical to front panel **20**, wherein the width of top and bottom edges **156** and **158** of rear panel **150** are approximately equal to the width of top and bottom edges **22** and **24** of front panel **20**; however, the length of left and right edges **160** and **162** of rear panel **150** are preferably approximately five inches shorter than the length of left and right edges **26** and **28** of front panel **20**. It is recognized that rear panel **150** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, and that rear panel **150** could be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, particle board, tin, aluminum, plastic, or other strong, rigid, yet relatively lightweight materials.

Preferably formed on upper middle portion **151** of rear panel **150** are apertures **170**, **172**, **174**, **176** and **178**, wherein apertures **170**, **172**, **174**, **176** and **178** are substantially identical to apertures **30**, **40**, **42**, **44** and **46**, respectively, formed on front panel **20**. Preferably, when top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is aligned with top edge **22** of front panel **20** and top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully

described below, apertures **170, 172, 174, 176** and **178**,  
formed on rear panel **150**, align with apertures **30, 40, 42,**  
**44** and **46**, respectively, formed on front panel **20**, and  
apertures **61, 63, 64, 66** and **68**, respectively, formed on  
5 middle portion **50**, to form throughholes **180, 184, 186, 188**  
and **190**, respectively, for purposes more fully described  
below. Preferably, throughholes **180, 184, 186, 188** and  
**190**, and associated apertures formed on front panel **20**,  
middle portion **50** and rear panel **150**, are positioned at  
10 selected distances from one another depending on the  
location of the mounting screw apertures disposed on the  
selected associated mounting plate, as more fully described  
below. It is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that  
apparatus **10** could possess any number of apertures and  
15 throughholes, situated in any suitable configuration on  
apparatus **10**, so long as apparatus **10** can be mounted to  
wall surface **W** and so long as wires and cables can be  
passed through and out of apparatus **10**.

20 Aperture **200** is preferably centrally disposed on lower  
portion **153** of rear panel **150**, wherein aperture **200** is  
preferably dimensioned and positioned to engage recess **20**  
when top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is aligned with top

edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below. Aperture **200**, in combination with recess **20**, preferably accommodates for electrical outlets and plugs to pass therethrough and permit apparatus **10** to stand flush  
5 against wall surface **W**.

Preferably, rear panel **150** further possesses apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216** for attaching rear panel **150** to middle portion **50**, as more fully described below, wherein  
10 apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216** are dimensioned and positioned to engage screw holes **140**, **142**, **144** and **146**, formed on middle portion **50**, when top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**, as more fully described below. It is recognized that rear  
15 panel **150** could comprise any number of apertures, situated in any suitable configuration on rear panel **150**, so long as rear panel **150** can be removably secured to middle portion **50**, as more fully described below.

20 Front panel **20** is preferably permanently attached to middle portion **50**, wherein top edge **22** of front panel **20** is preferably aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**. Rear side **23** of front panel **20** is preferably glued to front

side **52** of middle portion **50**; although it is recognized that other suitable fasteners could alternatively be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, screws, rivets, bolts, nails, rubber cement, or other suitable  
5 adhesives.

After the appropriate wires and cables are set into place, as more fully described below, rear panel **150** is preferably removably secured to middle portion **50**, wherein  
10 top edge **156** of rear panel **150** is preferably aligned with top edge **56** of middle portion **50**. Preferably, screws are inserted into apertures **210**, **212**, **214** and **216**, formed on rear panel **150**, to removably secure front side **152** of rear panel **150** to rear side **54** of middle portion **50**; however, it  
15 is recognized that other suitable fasteners could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, a tab and slot engagement.

Referring back to **FIG. 2**, and with continued reference  
20 to **FIG. 3**, notch **220** is preferably disposed on lower rear portion **11** of apparatus **10**, wherein notch **220** preferably accommodates for base trim and or floor molding on wall

surface **W**, if present, to permit apparatus **10** to stand flush against a wall surface.

Now referring back to **FIG. 1**, with continued reference  
5 to **FIG. 3**, after the appropriate wires and cables are set into place, as more fully described below, a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen mounting plate **P** is preferably affixed to front panel **20** of apparatus **10** via insertion of mounting screws **S** through mounting plate **P** and  
10 into throughholes **184**, **186**, **188** and **190**, wherein mounting screws **S** preferably extend passed apertures **170**, **172**, **174**, **176** and **178**, formed on rear panel **150**, and into wall surface **W**, thereby anchoring and removably securing apparatus **10** to wall surface **W**. Preferably, mounting plate  
15 **P** is a conventional attachment plate for mounting a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen to a wall surface, as is known within the art. Mounting plate **P** is typically included with the purchase of a flat screen television monitor or plasma screen. Subsequently,  
20 television monitor **M** is preferably removably secured to mounting plate **P**. It is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that other suitable fasteners for mounting television monitor **M** to apparatus **10** and for affixing

apparatus **10** to wall surface **W** could be utilized, such as, for exemplary purposes only, brackets, nails, bolts, rivets, dowels, and the like.

5        To operate apparatus **10**, first wire set **C1** is preferably utilized to connect television monitor **M** to a power and/or audiovisual source, second wire set **C2** is preferably utilized to connect television monitor **M** to A/V connector plate **120**, and third wire set **C3** is preferably  
10 utilized to connect A/V connector plate **120** to the power and/or audiovisual source. Prior to attaching rear panel **150** to middle portion **50**, and prior to mounting apparatus **10** to wall surface **W**, first wire set **C1**, second wire set **C2** and third wire set **C3** are preferably appropriately  
15 positioned within apparatus **10**, as more fully described below.

Preferably, to connect television monitor **M** to a power and/or audiovisual source, first wire set **C1** is inserted  
20 into throughhole **180**, wherein first wire set **C1** is subsequently passed through channel **80** and into recess **70**. Television monitor **M** is preferably mounted proximal to throughhole **180**. Preferably, a power outlet and

audiovisual source, preferably an antenna, satellite dish or cable outlet, are located proximal to recess 70 when apparatus 10 is secured to wall surface W.

5            Preferably, to connect television monitor M to A/V connector plate 120, second wire set C2 is inserted into throughhole 180, wherein second wire set C2 is subsequently passed through channel 80, recess 70, channel 130 and into channel 90. Preferably, to connect A/V connector plate 120  
10 to the power and/or audiovisual source disposed on wall surface W, third wire set C3 is inserted into recess 70, wherein third wire set C3 is subsequently passed through channel 130 and into channel 90.

15            It is contemplated that any number and configuration of cables and/or wires could be utilized to connect and integrate the various electronic devices, or that apparatus 10 could possess built-in cables and wires to connect the various electronic devices. Preferably, rear panel 150 is  
20 removably secured to middle portion 50 to enclose the wires and cables, wherein screws are inserted into throughholes 210, 212, 214 and 216 formed on rear panel 150.

In an alternate embodiment, apparatus **10** could lack rear panel **150**.

In another alternate embodiment, apparatus **10** could  
5 embody a unitary structure possessing apertures and channels for managing and concealing cables and wires therein.

In yet another alternate embodiment, apparatus **10**  
10 could embody other suitable shapes, such as, for exemplary purposes only, pyramidal, diamond, elliptical or semicircle.

In yet still another alternate embodiment, apparatus  
15 **10** possesses a decorative trim, wherein the decorative trim is disposed on a top wall, a left sidewall and a right sidewall of apparatus **10**.

In yet still another further alternate embodiment,  
20 apparatus **10** could be configured to display more than one electronic visual display.



In still another alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess mounting plates or apertures for audio speakers.

5 In still a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess appendages such as shelves and cabinets.

In still another alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess any number and configuration of channels for  
10 managing and concealing cables and wires.

In yet a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could possess any number and configuration of A/V connector plates and associated channels for connecting the  
15 electronic visual display to auxiliary electronic devices.

In still a further alternate embodiment, apparatus 10 could be configured to stand or hang without the support of a wall surface.

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Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and

that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but  
5 is limited only by the following claims.